Air-Conditioned Coaches

6355. SHRI RAM NARESH SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to provide air-conditioned Chair Car Coaches on day time trains running between important cities;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether there is any proposal to provide A/C Chair Car Coaches on 8183/8184 Patna-Tata and 8625/8626 Patna-Hatia Expresses?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) to (c). A C Chari Car coaches are proposed to be provided on all day time Mail/Express trains subject to availability of such coaches from Production Units.

Additional line on Santragachi– Kharagpur Section

6536. SHRI SATYAGOPAL MISRA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal for construction of additional railway lines from Santragachi to Panskura, Panskura to Kharagpur and form Kharagpur to Midnapore on South Eastern Railway in view of heavy density of traffic on these routes;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) to (c). A survey has just been carried out for construction of additional Railway lines from Santragachi to Kharagpur. Further decision would depend on results of survey and availability of resources in the coming years. There is no proposal for construction of additional Railway lines from Kharagpur to Midnapur.

Special Olympic Meet for Handicapped

6457. SHRI PRATAPRAO B. BHONSLE: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Special Olympic meet for handicapped was held in U.S.A. in July, 1991;

(b) whether handicapped sportsmen from India participated in that event; and

(c) if so, the details thereof with achievements made by them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS AND THE DEPARTMENT OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Nineteen member team in the Swimming, Athletics and Basketball events participated at Government Cost of Rs. 10.50 lakhs. The Indian Special Olympic Team won 20 Gold, 10 Silver and 2 Bronze Medals.

Herbal Cure of Cerebral Malaria

6358. SHRI RABI RAY:
SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH:
SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether China has developed a herbal drug for curing carebral Malaria;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government propose to import this drug for the treatment of Malaria patients in our country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI D.K. THARADEVI SIDDHARTHA): (a) and (b). Yes, A herb *Artemisia annua* had been used for many centuries in Chinese traditional medicine as a treatment for fever and malaria. In 1971, Chinese scientists isolated form the leafy portions of the plant the substance responsible for its reputed medical action. This compound is called *Ginghaosu* The compound has been used successfully in several thousand malaria patients in China including those with both chloroquin sensitive and chioroquin resistant strains of *P.falciparum.* It acts rapidly in restoring to consciousness to comatoso patients with cerebral malaria.

(c) and (d). Although this drug is commercialized in China it has not yet passed safety evaluation tests and regulatory toxicity clearance from Drugs Controller of India.

[*Translation*]

Percentage of Acid in 'Gutka'

6359. SHRI GAYA PRASAD KORI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that higher percentage of acid is found in 'Gutka';

(b) whether the 90 per cent of the people consuming the 'gutka' are likely to become the victims of fatal diseases like mouth cancer, T.B. and Jaundice etc.; and

(c) if so, the remedial measures proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI D.K. THARADEVI SIDDHARTHA): (a) to (c). Gutka is a tobacco based product. Available brands of Gutaka carry the Statutory declaration "Chewing of tobacco is injurious to Heath".

[*English*]

Photo Dynamic Therapy for the Treatment of Cancer

6360. SHRI BHAGEY GOBARDHAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Photo Dynamic Tharaphy is used for the treatment of cancer in some developed countries of the world;

(b) if so, whether it is being used in India also;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, whether the Government propose to extend this therapy in India also?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI D.K. THARADEVI SIDDHARTHA): (a) to (d). Photodynamic therapy is an experimental modality for treatment of cancer. This is not being used in India.